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been lost), and one has germinated. It behaves in the manner anticipated. In view of the curious behavior in germination of *Megarrhiza* and of *Ipomœa leptophylla*, which both agree in lengthening greatly the petioles of the cotyledons, and both have a huge root, it was thought likely that *I. pandurata*, which is also huge rooted, would also keep its caulicle short and elevate its cotyledons on long petioles. And we find that it does so. The germination of the tuberous-rooted species of New Mexico and Arizona, also of the Carolin an *I. Jalappa*, should now be observed. Mr. Darwin, always sagacious, has suggested that the object of this peculiarity is to leave the primary bud upon the apex of the huge root well underground, for its greater safety, whether against severe cold or drought. It will be interesting to know whether all the great-rooted *Convolvulaceæ* have this peculiarity. Seedlings of *Ipomœa Jalappa*, sent by Dr. Mellichamp from South Carolina, appear to present an intermediate condition.

A good illustration of the truth of the doctrine "ne nimium crede colori" is supplied by Dr. Charles W. Swan, of Lowell, Mass , who sends us white flowered individuals of *Gratiola aurea*, growing in the midst of bright yellow ones; also after a little search, some intermediate ones with pale yellow corolla.

In my First Lessons, in Structural Botany, etc., I have taken the embryo of Maples, without discrimination, as a pattern of embryo without a plumule ready-formed. I ought to have known the soft White-Maple (*Acer dasycarpum*), having thick cotyledons, well stored with nourishment, ought to have a ready-formed plumule. If I had thought of it and examined, I should have found it so, and should have used this species as an illustration. Mr. C. S. Deane, of Grundy, Iowa, has supplied my omission and called my attention to the fact. There is a good plumule in the seed, like that of the bean. In the books referred to, where Maples in general are mentioned, Sugar Maple and Red Maple are to be understood

Polygonum cilinode roots at the tip of slender axillary branches, and so propagates freely. This is noted by E. L. Hankenson, of Newark, New York.

Cleistogamous species of *Helianthemum* were supposed to exist only in America. Dr Ascherson calls attention to one in Spain and another in Egypt which were essentially indicated by Linnaeus and by Delile. He particularly confirms the fact, and speaks of a number of other plants which become cleistogamous in the African desert, where insects are scarce.

It was Prof. Decaisne, we believe, who long ago explained that the uncultivability of Rhinanthideous plants (such as *Pedicularis*, *Gerardia*, etc.) was owing to their parasitism in early life. He has, of late, succeeded in raising them well by sowing the freshly ripened seeds on turf, containing grasses and Leguminous plants. It should be tried with our Gerardias and the pretty *Orthocarpi* of California.—A. GRAY.

MESEMBRIANTHEMUM, not *Mesembryanthemum*.—So it is properly written by Jacob Breyne, who made the name, and by Dillenius who took it up, both giving the derivation from "*mesembria*," midday, alluding to the time the blossoms open. But both Breyne and Dillenius about half the time wrote *Mesembryanthemum.* Linnæus, adopting the latter, became consistent by making a wrong and far-fetched derivation to match the orthography. Among systematic writers Sprengel almost alone keeps to the correct orthography, and Webb insists on it. The younger Breyne, in his edition of his father's Prodromus, has a note about it (p. 81). He mentions an excuse for changing the orthography, namely, that some species do not open the blossom at noontide, and intimates that Linnæus' derivation from the insertion of the corolla around the middle of the germ, is open to the same objection. If heeded, that kind of objection would be fatal to very many generic names.—A. GRAY.

POTAMOGETON VASEYI, ROBBINS.—This species has usually been considered the rarest of all our pond-weeds. The fructiferous form with floating leaves, perhaps, is so, having been detected, so far as I am aware, in only two localities in the United States and one in Canada. The submerged form, however, promises to be much more abundant. In company with Mr. Edwin Faxon, of Jamaica Plain, Mass., I dredged for it this summer in Lake Quinsigamond, where a few specimens, floating on the surface, were obtained some years ago by Dr. Robbins.

This sheet of water resembles one of the lochs of Scotland, lying in a deep hollow among low hills. It is almost five miles long by half a mile broad. The water deepens abruptly from the shore, having on the outer edge of the bed a belt of stones and pebbles. Within this the bottom seems to be composed of silt washed from the surrounding hills. In this silt, at a depth varying from six to twelve feet, throughout the lake, we found *P. Vaseyi* growing in great profusion. It was mixed with *P. Spirillus*, *P. pusillus* and *Naias flexilis.*

This form of the species has filiform stems, 6–18 inches high, sending up long branches from the base and shorter ones above; leaves scattered, setaceous, 1–nerved, 1–3 inches in length, and tapering to a long needle-like point; stipules delicate, free, acute, 3–6 lines in length and rather persistent. The plant is propagated exclusively by gemmae, which are much like those of *P. gemmiparus*, but usually smaller and more delicate.

Our find shows the importance, when searching for aquatics, of using a dredging rake. Plants as slender as this cannot be seen from the surface unless the water is extraordinarily clear, nor even then well enough to determine what they are. I have found myself repeatedly deceived in fishing up something dimly discerned on the bottom which proved t be very different from what I expected. Had we trusted to eyesight alone in this case, we should never have suspected what riches lay beneath the water.—THOMAS MORONG, *Ashland, Mass.*

BAPTISIA CALYCOSA, W. M. CANBY.—I have lately collected fine